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6 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT: Comment on Human Source Collection
Aspects of the NSCIC Working Group
Critique at the 20 November Meeting

1. The minutes of the 20 November meeting of the NSCIC Working Group reflect points that almost entirely fall within the production rather than the HUMINT collection area. However, we have identified the following items which may involve HUMINT collection and have made pertinent comments.

2. P. 3, paragraph 8:

"(Mr. Ober) felt consumers also needed to know more about collection capabilities. Consumers tend to 'feel the Community can collect anything it wants, and lack of reporting may convey the impression nothing is happening when it may be that no collection capability exists."

Comment:

The ultimate policy-making consumer at higher levels may indeed be fuzzy in his knowledge about collection capabilities, but those consumers who are also producers are generally very well aware of what the community can and cannot collect. There is effective coordination on this between collection managers and the analyst/producer, through the requirements and related mechanisms.

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We do not believe that there is a serious danger that lack of reporting may convey the impression that nothing is happening. However, it is the analyst/producer-NIO-EIC mechanism which should insure that requirements of the top decision makers, including those which may require new collection capabilities, be made known to collection managers through the requirements process or otherwise.

Action Recommended:

We recommend that this concern be noted to the Human Source Committee and that collection managers be asked to insure that their production consumers are kept aware of areas where collection capability is weak or does not exist. This concern should also be noted to the NIOs and possibly DDI/CGAS with the suggestion that intelligence briefings of ultimate policy level consumers include, where appropriate, information on collection capabilities. A series of special NIO briefings for NSCIC and similar bodies may also be advisable.

3. P. 6, paragraph 36:

"Mr. Ellsworth emphasized that the Secretary of Defense is particularly interested in qualitative aspects of the Soviet force structure, and on a recent trip to Europe the Secretary had noted with some surprise that intelligence collectors were not aware of his interest."

Comment:

This is a requirements matter. Was this requirement articulated to collection managers?

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Action Recommended:

This item should be noted to the Human Sources Committee, particularly for the DIA and CIA collection managers. DIA and CIA representatives should be asked to determine and report, as a "lesson learned" exercise, whether the requirement was received and, if so, staffed into the requirements process.

4. P. 9, paragraph 53:

"(Admiral Hilton) said that J-5 considers not enough attention is being paid to Soviet deception and disinformation activities."

Comment:

This is a sensitive subject on which the primary collectors in the Community are DDO and FBI. These two agencies possess the basic holdings and expertise on the subject.

Action Recommended:

This item should be placed on the agenda of the Human Sources Committee Clandestine Intelligence Collection Working Group with a view to asking CIA (DDO) to review and assess the adequacy of information on this subject and to render a report to the HSC together with any recommendations for improvement if considered necessary.

5. P. 10, paragraph 59:

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Action Recommended:

The item should be placed on the agenda of the HSC
Clandestine Intelligence Collection Working Group for information.

6. P. 10, paragraph 60:

("Mr. Morell) said that the present biographic intelligence
is not as useful as it could be. More attention needs to be given to a
foreign official's policy positions, his basic philosophy, and how long
he is likely to be around, rather than to how many children he has or
his cocktail preference."

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Comment:

Collection managers were made aware of this point at a recent HSC briefing by the managers of the biographic intelligence program.

Action Recommended:

Include a review of biographic intelligence reporting in the FOCUS Assessment process, as already suggested at the HSC briefings, with a view to including Mr. Morell's point. Reaffirm this suggestion with HSC and HSC ask NIOs to include this in their FOCUS assessments.

7. P. 10, paragraph 64:

"Mr. Morell said Treasury's problem is two-fold: It needs to know what is going on as it happens, and it needs an interpretation."

Comment:

This need refers to economic intelligence, the collection and production of which has been increased by the community. The reporting of events as they happen, or preferably before then, is a standard requirement. As far as interpretation is concerned, guidance to Foreign Service and other collectors has stressed the need for interpretative comments to be included as part of factual reporting. IC/HUMINT briefings and seminars with Foreign Service officers and Defense Attaches have also stressed this latter point.

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Action Recommended:

No specific action appears required on this point. However, a briefing of HSC by the NIO/EC on current needs for economic intelligence and interpretation of significance of economic reporting may be desirable.

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